

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method for improving functional health status in a patient with ~~age-related~~ decline in physical performance resulting from aging, which comprises administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a growth hormone secretagogue.

Claim 2 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the instrumental activities of daily living of the patient are improved.

Claim 3 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the energy level of the patient is improved.

Claim 4 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the mood of the patient is improved.

Claim 5 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the energy level, mood and sleep quality of the patient are improved.

Claim 6 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the cognitive status of the patient is improved.

Claim 7 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the mental acuity of the patient is improved.

Claim 8 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the ability of the patient to perform in the workplace is improved.

Claim 9 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the health-related quality of life of the patient is improved.

Claim 10 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the social isolation of the patient is reduced.

Claim 11 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the functional independence of the patient is preserved.

Claim 12 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the patient is a human.

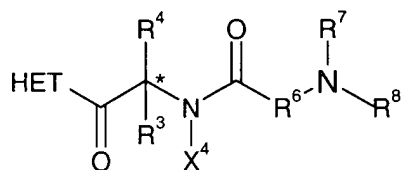
Claims 13 and 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the growth hormone secretagogue is an orally active growth hormone secretagogue.

Claim 16 (original). A method of claim 15 wherein the growth hormone secretagogue is orally administered.

Claim 17 (original). A method of claim 1 wherein the growth hormone secretagogue is a non-peptidyl growth hormone secretagogue.

Claim 18 (currently amended). A method of claim 1 wherein said growth hormone secretagogue is a compound of the Formula I:

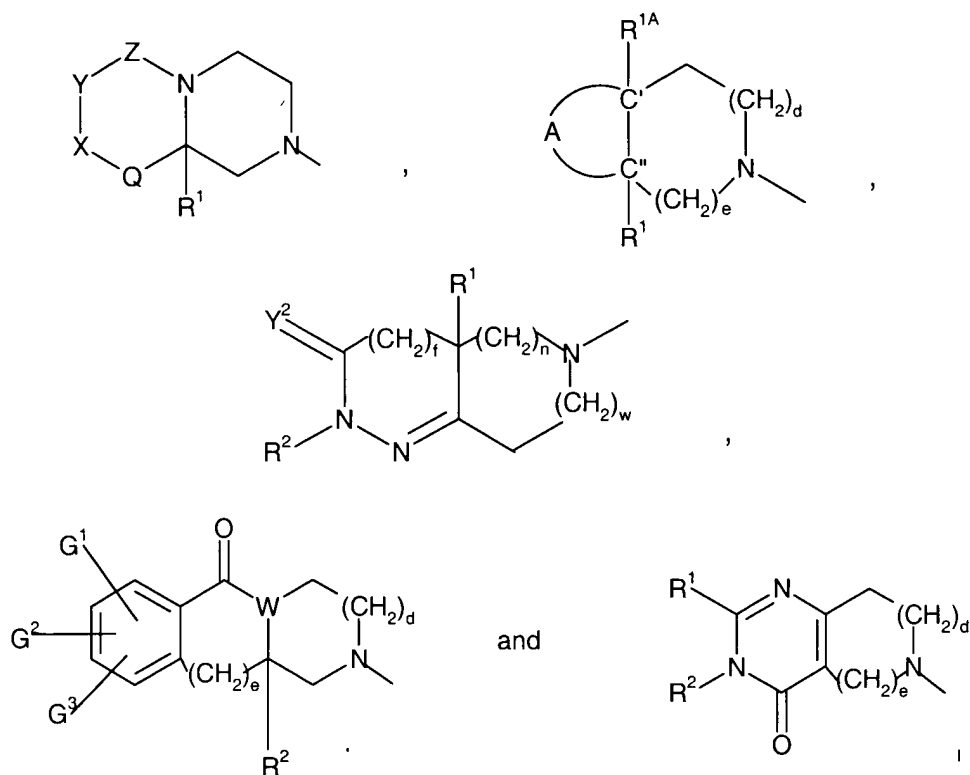


or a stereoisomeric mixture thereof, diastereomerically enriched, diastereomerically pure, enantiomerically enriched or enantiomerically pure isomer thereof, or a prodrug of such compound, mixture or isomer

thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound, mixture, isomer or prodrug, or a tautomer thereof,

wherein:

HET is a heterocyclic moiety selected from the group consisting of



d is 0, 1 or 2;

e is 1 or 2;

f is 0 or 1;

n and w are 0, 1 or 2, provided that n and w cannot both be 0 at the same time;

Y² is oxygen or sulfur;

A is a divalent radical, where the left hand side of the radical as shown below is connected to C'' and the right hand side of the radical as shown below is connected to C', selected from the group consisting of -NR²-C(O)-NR²-, -NR²-S(O)₂-NR²-, -O-C(O)-NR²-, -NR²-C(O)-O-, -C(O)-NR²-C(O)-,

$-C(O)-NR^2-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-NR^2-C(O)-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$
 ,
 $-S(O)_2-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-O-C(O)-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-O-C(R^9R^{10})-$,
 $-NR^2-C(O)-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-O-C(O)-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(O)-NR^2-$,
 $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(O)-O-$, $-C(O)-NR^2-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-C(O)-O-C(R^9R^{10})-$,
 $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-S(O)_2-NR^2-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$,
 $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-NR^2-C(O)-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-O-C(O)-$,
 $-NR^2-C(O)-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-NR^2-S(O)_2-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$,
 $-O-C(O)-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-C(O)-NR^2-$,
 $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-C(O)-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-NR^2-C(O)-O-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-O-C(O)-$
 NR^2 ,
 $-C(R^9R^{10})-NR^2-C(O)-NR^2-$, $-NR^2-C(O)-O-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-NR^2-C(O)-NR^2-$
 $C(R^9R^{10})-$,
 $-NR^2-S(O)_2-NR^2-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-O-C(O)-NR^2-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-C(O)-N=C(R^{11})-NR^2-$,
 $-C(O)-NR^2-C(R^{11})=N-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-NR^{12}-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-NR^{12}-C(R^9R^{10})-$,
 $-NR^{12}-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-C(O)-O-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-NR^2-C(R^{11})=N-$
 $C(O)-$,
 $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-N(R^{12})-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-NR^{12}-$, $-N=C(R^{11})-NR^2-C(O)-$,
 $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-NR^2-S(O)_2-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-S(O)_2-NR^2-$,
 $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-C(O)-O-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-S(O)_2-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-$
 $C(R^9R^{10})-S(O)_2-$, $-O-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$, $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-O-$,
 $-C(R^9R^{10})-C(O)-C(R^9R^{10})-$,
 $-C(O)-C(R^9R^{10})-C(R^9R^{10})-$ and $-C(R^9R^{10})-NR^2-S(O)_2-NR^2-$;

Q is a covalent bond or CH_2 ;

W is CH or N;

X is CR^9R^{10} , $C=CH_2$ or $C=O$;

Y is CR^9R^{10} , O or NR^2 ;

Z is $C=O$, $C=S$ or $S(O)_2$;

G^1 is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, phenyl, carboxyl, $-CONH_2$, $-(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl optionally independently substituted with one or

more phenyl, one or more halogens or one or more hydroxy groups, $-(C_1-C_4)$ alkoxy optionally independently substituted with one or more phenyl, one or more halogens or one or more hydroxy groups, $-(C_1-C_4)$ alkylthio, phenoxy, $-COO(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl, N,N-di- (C_1-C_4) alkylamino, $-(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl optionally independently substituted with one or more phenyl, one or more halogens or one or more hydroxy groups, $-(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl optionally independently substituted with one or more phenyl, one or more halogens or one or more hydroxy groups, $-(C_3-C_6)$ cycloalkyl optionally independently substituted with one or more (C_1-C_4) alkyl groups, one or more halogens or one or more hydroxy groups, $-(C_1-C_4)$ alkylamino carbonyl or di- (C_1-C_4) alkylamino carbonyl;

G^2 and G^3 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, $-(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl optionally independently substituted with one to three halo groups and $-(C_1-C_4)$ alkoxy optionally independently substituted with one to three halo groups;

R^1 is hydrogen, $-CN$, $-(CH_2)_qN(X^6)C(O)X^6$, $-(CH_2)_qN(X^6)C(O)(CH_2)_tA^1$, $-(CH_2)_qN(X^6)S(O)_2(CH_2)_tA^1$, $-(CH_2)_qN(X^6)S(O)_2X^6$, $-(CH_2)_qN(X^6)C(O)N(X^6)(CH_2)_tA^1$, $-(CH_2)_qN(X^6)C(O)N(X^6)(X^6)$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)N(X^6)(X^6)$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)N(X^6)(CH_2)_tA^1$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)OX^6$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)O(CH_2)_tA^1$, $-(CH_2)_qOX^6$, $-(CH_2)_qOC(O)X^6$, $-(CH_2)_qOC(O)(CH_2)_tA^1$, $-(CH_2)_qOC(O)N(X^6)(CH_2)_tA^1$, $-(CH_2)_qOC(O)N(X^6)(X^6)$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)X^6$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)(CH_2)_tA^1$, $-(CH_2)_qN(X^6)C(O)OX^6$, $-(CH_2)_qN(X^6)S(O)_2N(X^6)(X^6)$, $-(CH_2)_qS(O)_mX^6$, $-(CH_2)_qS(O)_m(CH_2)_tA^1$, $-(C_1-C_{10})$ alkyl, $-(CH_2)_tA^1$, $-(CH_2)_q-(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_q-Y^1-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, $-(CH_2)_q-Y^1-(CH_2)_tA^1$ or $-(CH_2)_q-Y^1-(CH_2)_t-(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl;

where the alkyl and cycloalkyl groups in the definition of R^1 are optionally substituted with (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, carboxyl, -CONH₂,

-S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl, -CO₂(C₁-C₄)alkyl ester, 1H-tetrazol-5-yl or 1, 2 or 3 fluoro groups;

Y^1 is O, S(O)_m, -C(O)NX⁶-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -N(X⁶)C(O)-, -C(O)NX⁶-,

-C(O)O-, -OC(O)N(X⁶)- or -OC(O)-;

q is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

t is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

said (CH₂)_q group and (CH₂)_t group in the definition of R^1 are optionally independently substituted with hydroxy, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, carboxyl, -CONH₂,

-S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl, -CO₂(C₁-C₄)alkyl ester, 1H-tetrazol-5-yl, 1, 2 or 3 fluoro groups or 1 or 2 (C₁-C₄)alkyl groups;

R^{1A} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, I, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, phenyl(C₁-C₃)alkyl, pyridyl(C₁-C₃)alkyl, thiazolyl(C₁-C₃)alkyl and thienyl(C₁-C₃)alkyl, provided that R^{1A} is not F, Cl, Br or I when a heteroatom is vicinal to C^{''};

R^2 is hydrogen, (C₁-C₈)alkyl, -(C₀-C₃)alkyl-(C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, -(C₁-C₄)alkyl-A¹ or A¹;

where the alkyl groups and the cycloalkyl groups in the definition of R^2 are optionally substituted with hydroxy, -C(O)OX⁶, -C(O)N(X⁶)(X⁶), -N(X⁶)(X⁶), -S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)A¹, -C(O)(X⁶), CF₃, CN or 1, 2 or 3 independently selected halo groups;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of A¹, (C₁-C₁₀)alkyl, -(C₁-C₆)alkyl-A¹, -(C₁-C₆)alkyl-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, -(C₁-C₅)alkyl-X¹-(C₁-C₅)alkyl, -(C₁-C₅)alkyl-X¹-(C₀-C₅)alkyl-A¹ and -(C₁-C₅)alkyl-X¹-(C₁-C₅)alkyl-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl;

where the alkyl groups in the definition of R^3 are optionally substituted with

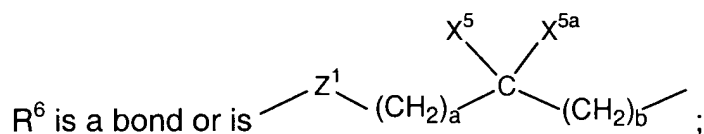
$-S(O)_m(C_1-C_6)alkyl$, $-C(O)OX^3$, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 independently selected halo groups or 1, 2 or 3 independently selected $-OX^3$ groups;

X^1 is O, $S(O)_m$, $-N(X^2)C(O)-$, $-C(O)N(X^2)-$, $-OC(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-CX^2=CX^2-$,

$-N(X^2)C(O)O-$, $-OC(O)N(X^2)-$ or $-C\equiv C-$;

R^4 is hydrogen, $(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ or $(C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl$, or R^4 is taken together with R^3 and the carbon atom to which they are attached and form $(C_5-C_7)cycloalkyl$, $(C_5-C_7)cycloalkenyl$, a partially saturated or fully saturated 4- to 8-membered ring having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, or is a bicyclic ring system consisting of a partially saturated or fully saturated 5- or 6-membered ring, fused to a partially saturated, fully unsaturated or fully saturated 5- or 6-membered ring, optionally having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen;

X^4 is hydrogen or $(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ or X^4 is taken together with R^4 and the nitrogen atom to which X^4 is attached and the carbon atom to which R^4 is attached and form a five to seven membered ring;



where a and b are each independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

X^5 and X^{5a} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, CF_3 , A^1 and optionally substituted $(C_1-C_6)alkyl$;

the optionally substituted $(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ in the definition of X^5 and X^{5a} is optionally substituted with a substituent selected

from the group consisting of A^1 , OX^2 , $-S(O)_m(C_1-C_6)alkyl$, $-C(O)OX^2$, $(C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl$, $-N(X^2)(X^2)$ and $-C(O)N(X^2)(X^2)$;

or the carbon bearing X^5 or X^{5a} forms one or two alkylene bridges with the nitrogen atom bearing R^7 and R^8 wherein each alkylene bridge contains 1 to 5 carbon atoms, provided that when one alkylene bridge is formed then only one of X^5 or X^{5a} is on the carbon atom and only one of R^7 or R^8 is on the nitrogen atom and further provided that when two alkylene bridges are formed then X^5 and X^{5a} cannot be on the carbon atom and R^7 and R^8 cannot be on the nitrogen atom;

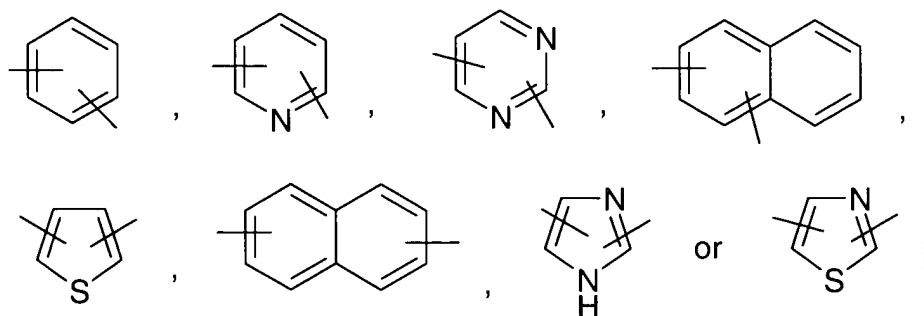
or X^5 is taken together with X^{5a} and the carbon atom to which they are attached and form a partially saturated or fully saturated 3- to 7-membered ring, or a partially saturated or fully saturated 4- to 8-membered ring having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

or X^5 is taken together with X^{5a} and the carbon atom to which they are attached and form a bicyclic ring system consisting of a partially saturated or fully saturated 5- or 6-membered ring, optionally having 1 or 2 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen, fused to a partially saturated, fully saturated or fully unsaturated 5- or 6-membered ring, optionally having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen;

Z^1 is a bond, O or $N-X^2$, provided that when a and b are both 0 then Z^1 is not $N-X^2$ or O;

or R^6 is $-(CR^aR^b)_a-E-(CR^aR^b)_b-$, where the $-(CR^aR^b)_a-$ group is attached to the carbonyl carbon of the amide group of the compound of formula I and the $-(CR^aR^b)_b$ group is attached to the terminal nitrogen atom of the compound of formula I;

E is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-CH=CH-$ or an aromatic moiety selected from



said aromatic moiety in the definition of E optionally substituted with up to three halo, hydroxy, $-N(R^c)(R^c)$, (C_1-C_6) alkyl or (C_1-C_6) alkoxy; R^a and R^b are, for each occurrence, independently hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, trifluoromethyl, phenyl or monosubstituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl where the substituents are imidazolyl, naphthyl, phenyl, indolyl, p-hydroxyphenyl,

$-OR^c$, $S(O)_mR^c$, $C(O)OR^c$, (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl, $-N(R^c)(R^c)$, $-C(O)N(R^c)(R^c)$, or R^a or R^b may independently be joined to one or both of R^7 or E (where E is other than O, S or $-CH=CH-$) to form an alkylene bridge between the terminal nitrogen and the alkyl portion of the R^a or R^b and the R^7 or E group, wherein the bridge contains 1 to 8 carbon atoms; or R^a and R^b may be joined to one another to form a (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl;

R^c , for each occurrence, is independently hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl; a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, with the proviso that if E is -O- or

-S-, b is other than 0 or 1 and with the further proviso that if E is $-CH=CH-$, b is other than 0;

R^7 and R^8 are each independently hydrogen or optionally substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

where the optionally substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl in the definition of R^7 and R^8 is optionally independently substituted with A^1 , $-C(O)O-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,

$-S(O)_m(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, 1 to 5 halo groups, 1 to 3 hydroxy groups, 1 to 3

-O-C(O)(C₁-C₁₀)alkyl groups or 1 to 3 (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups; or

R⁷ and R⁸ can be taken together to form -(CH₂)_r-L-(CH₂)_r;

where L is C(X²)(X²), S(O)_m or N(X²);

R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, hydroxy and (C₁-C₅)alkyl optionally independently substituted with 1-5 halo groups;

R¹¹ is selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₅)alkyl and phenyl optionally substituted with 1-3 ~~substituents~~ substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₅)alkyl, halo and (C₁-C₅)alkoxy;

R¹² is selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₅)alkylsulfonyl, (C₁-C₅)alkanoyl and (C₁-C₅)alkyl where the alkyl portion is optionally independently substituted by 1-5 halo groups;

A¹ for each occurrence is independently selected from the group consisting of (C₅-C₇)cycloalkenyl, phenyl, a partially saturated, fully saturated or fully unsaturated 4- to 8-membered ring optionally having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen and a bicyclic ring system consisting of a partially saturated, fully unsaturated or fully saturated 5- or 6-membered ring, optionally having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen, fused to a partially saturated, fully saturated or fully unsaturated 5- or 6-membered ring, optionally having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen;

A¹ for each occurrence is independently optionally substituted, on one or optionally both rings if A¹ is a bicyclic ring system, with up to three substituents, each substituent independently selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, OCF₃, OCF₂H, CF₃, CH₃, OCH₃, -OX⁶,

-C(O)N(X⁶)(X⁶), -C(O)OX⁶, oxo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, nitro, cyano, benzyl, -S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl, 1H-tetrazol-5-yl, phenyl, phenoxy, phenylalkyloxy, halophenyl, methylenedioxy, -N(X⁶)(X⁶), -N(X⁶)C(O)(X⁶), -S(O)₂N(X⁶)(X⁶), -N(X⁶)S(O)₂-phenyl, -N(X⁶)S(O)₂X⁶, -CONX¹¹X¹², -S(O)₂NX¹¹X¹², -NX⁶S(O)₂X¹², -NX⁶CONX¹¹X¹², -NX⁶S(O)₂NX¹¹X¹², -NX⁶C(O)X¹², imidazolyl, thiazolyl and tetrazolyl, provided that if A¹ is optionally substituted with methylenedioxy then it can only be substituted with one methylenedioxy;

where X¹¹ is hydrogen or optionally substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl; the optionally substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl defined for X¹¹ is optionally independently substituted with phenyl, phenoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, -S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl, 1 to 5 halo groups, 1 to 3 hydroxy groups, 1 to 3 (C₁-C₁₀)alkanoyloxy groups or 1 to 3 (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups;

X¹² is hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, phenyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, furyl or thienyl, provided that when X¹² is not hydrogen, the X¹² group is optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of Cl, F, CH₃, OCH₃, OCF₃ and CF₃;

or X¹¹ and X¹² are taken together to form -(CH₂)_r-L¹-(CH₂)_r;

L¹ is C(X²)(X²), O, S(O)_m or N(X²);

r for each occurrence is independently 1, 2 or 3;

X² for each occurrence is independently hydrogen, optionally substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl or optionally substituted (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, where the optionally substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl and optionally substituted (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl in the definition of X² are optionally independently substituted with -S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl, -C(O)OX³, 1 to 5 halo groups or 1-3 OX³ groups; X³ for each occurrence is independently hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

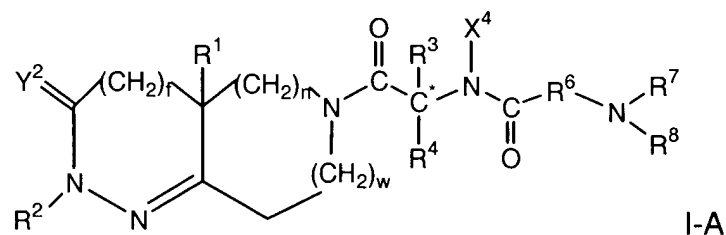
X^6 for each occurrence is independently hydrogen, optionally substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)halogenated alkyl, optionally substituted (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₇)-halogenated cycloalkyl, where optionally substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl and optionally substituted (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl in the definition of X^6 is optionally independently mono- or di-substituted with (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxy, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, carboxyl, CONH₂, -S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl, carboxylate (C₁-C₄)alkyl ester or 1H-tetrazol-5-yl; or when there are two X^6 groups on one atom and both X^6 are independently (C₁-C₆)alkyl, the two (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be optionally joined and, together with the atom to which the two X^6 groups are attached, form a 4- to 9- membered ring optionally having oxygen, sulfur or NX⁷ as a ring member;

X^7 is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl optionally substituted with hydroxy;
m for each occurrence is independently 0, 1 or 2;

with the provisos that:

- 1) X^6 and X^{12} cannot be hydrogen when attached to C(O) or S(O)₂ in the form C(O) X^6 , C(O) X^{12} , S(O)₂ X^6 or S(O)₂ X^{12} ; and
- 2) when R⁶ is a bond then L is N(X²) and each r in the definition -(CH₂)_r-L-(CH₂)_r- is independently 2 or 3.

Claim 19 (previously amended). A method of claim 18 wherein the growth hormone secretagogue is a compound of Formula I-A



a racemic-diastereomeric mixture or an optical isomer of said compound
or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or a prodrug thereof, or a tautomer thereof,
wherein

f is 0;

n is 0 and w is 2, or n is 1 and w is 1, or n is 2 and w is 0;

Y² is oxygen or sulfur;

R¹ is hydrogen, -CN, -(CH₂)_qN(X⁶)C(O)X⁶, -(CH₂)_qN(X⁶)C(O)(CH₂)_t-A¹,
 -(CH₂)_qN(X⁶)SO₂(CH₂)_t-A¹, -(CH₂)_qN(X⁶)SO₂X⁶, -(CH₂)_qN(X⁶-
)C(O)N(X⁶)(CH₂)_t-A¹,
 -(CH₂)_qN(X⁶)C(O)N(X⁶)(X⁶), -(CH₂)_qC(O)N(X⁶)(X⁶), -
 (CH₂)_qC(O)N(X⁶)(CH₂)_t-A¹,
 -(CH₂)_qC(O)OX⁶, -(CH₂)_qC(O)O(CH₂)_t-A¹, -(CH₂)_qOX⁶, -(CH₂)_qOC(O)X⁶,
 -(CH₂)_qOC(O)(CH₂)_t-A¹, -(CH₂)_qOC(O)N(X⁶)(CH₂)_t-A¹, -
 (CH₂)_qOC(O)N(X⁶)(X⁶),
 -(CH₂)_qC(O)X⁶, -(CH₂)_qC(O)(CH₂)_t-A¹, -(CH₂)_qN(X⁶)C(O)OX⁶,
 -(CH₂)_qN(X⁶)SO₂N(X⁶)(X⁶), -(CH₂)_qS(O)_mX⁶, -(CH₂)_qS(O)_m(CH₂)_t-A¹,
 -(C₁-C₁₀)alkyl, -(CH₂)_t-A¹, -(CH₂)_q-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)_q-Y¹-(C₁-
 C₆)alkyl,
 -(CH₂)_q-Y¹-(CH₂)_t-A¹ or -(CH₂)_q-Y¹-(CH₂)_t-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl;

where the alkyl and cycloalkyl groups in the definition of R¹ are
 optionally substituted with (C₁-C₄)alkyl, hydroxyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy,
 carboxyl, -CONH₂,

-S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl, -CO₂(C₁-C₄)alkyl ester, 1H-tetrazol-5-yl or 1, 2
 or 3 fluoro;

Y¹ is O, S(O)_m, -C(O)NX⁶-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -N(X⁶)C(O)-, -C(O)O-,
 -OC(O)N(X⁶)- or -OC(O)-;

q is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

t is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

said (CH₂)_q group and (CH₂)_t group may each be optionally
 substituted with hydroxyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, carboxyl, -CONH₂, -
 S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl,

-CO₂(C₁-C₄)alkyl ester, 1H-tetrazol-5-yl, 1, 2 or 3 fluoro, or 1 or 2
 (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

R^2 is hydrogen, (C_1-C_8) alkyl, $-(C_0-C_3)$ alkyl- (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, $-(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl- A^1 or A^1 ;

where the alkyl groups and the cycloalkyl groups in the definition of R^2 are optionally substituted with hydroxyl, $-C(O)OX^6$, $-C(O)N(X^6)(X^6)$,

$-N(X^6)(X^6)$, $-S(O)_m(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, $-C(O)A^1$, $-C(O)(X^6)$, CF_3 , CN or 1, 2 or 3 halogen;

R^3 is A^1 , (C_1-C_{10}) alkyl, $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl- A^1 , $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl- (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl, $-(C_1-C_5)$ alkyl- X^1 -(C_1-C_5)alkyl, $-(C_1-C_5)$ alkyl- X^1 -(C_0-C_5)alkyl- A^1 or $-(C_1-C_5)$ alkyl- X^1 -(C_1-C_5)alkyl- (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl;

where the alkyl groups in the definition of R^3 are optionally substituted with,

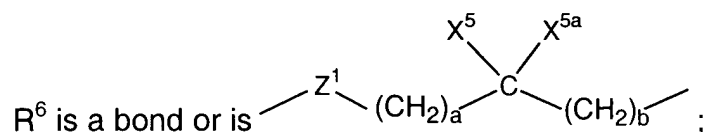
$-S(O)_m(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, $-C(O)OX^3$, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 halogens, or 1, 2 or 3 OX^3 ;

X^1 is O, $S(O)_m$, $-N(X^2)C(O)-$, $-C(O)N(X^2)-$, $-OC(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $-CX^2=CX^2-$,

$-N(X^2)C(O)O-$, $-OC(O)N(X^2)-$ or $-C\equiv C-$;

R^4 is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl or (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl;

X^4 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl or X^4 is taken together with R^4 and the nitrogen atom to which X^4 is attached and the carbon atom to which R^4 is attached and form a five to seven membered ring;



where a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

X^5 and X^{5a} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, trifluoromethyl, A^1 and optionally substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

the optionally substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl in the definition of X^5 and X^{5a} is optionally substituted with a substituent selected

from the group consisting of A^1 , OX^2 , $-S(O)_m(C_1-C_6)alkyl$, $-C(O)OX^2$, $(C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl$, $-N(X^2)(X^2)$ and $-C(O)N(X^2)(X^2)$;

R^7 and R^8 are independently hydrogen or optionally substituted $(C_1-C_6)alkyl$;

where the optionally substituted $(C_1-C_6)alkyl$ in the definition of R^7 and R^8 is optionally independently substituted with A^1 , $-C(O)O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl$,

$-S(O)_m(C_1-C_6)alkyl$, 1 to 5 halogens, 1 to 3 hydroxy, 1 to 3 $-O-C(O)(C_1-C_{10})alkyl$ or 1 to 3 $(C_1-C_6)alkoxy$; or

R^7 and R^8 can be taken together to form $-(CH_2)_r-L-(CH_2)_r-$;

where L is $C(X^2)(X^2)$, $S(O)_m$ or $N(X^2)$;

A^1 in the definition of R^1 is a partially saturated, fully saturated or fully unsaturated 4- to 8-membered ring optionally having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, a bicyclic ring system consisting of a partially saturated, fully unsaturated or fully saturated 5- or 6-membered ring, having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen, fused to a partially saturated, fully saturated or fully unsaturated 5- or 6-membered ring, optionally having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen;

A^1 in the definition of R^2 , R^3 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 is independently $(C_5-C_7)cycloalkenyl$, phenyl or a partially saturated, fully saturated or fully unsaturated 4- to 8- membered ring optionally having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, a bicyclic ring system consisting of a partially saturated, fully unsaturated or fully saturated 5- or 6- membered ring, optionally having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen, fused to a partially saturated, fully saturated

or fully unsaturated 5- or 6- membered ring, optionally having 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen;

A¹ for each occurrence is independently optionally substituted, in one or optionally both rings if A¹ is a bicyclic ring system, with up to three substituents, each substituent independently selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, OCF₃, OCF₂H, CF₃, CH₃, OCH₃, -OX⁶, -C(O)N(X⁶)(X⁶), -C(O)OX⁶, oxo, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, nitro, cyano, benzyl, -S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl, 1H-tetrazol-5-yl, phenyl, phenoxy, phenylalkyloxy, halophenyl, methylenedioxy, -N(X⁶)(X⁶), -N(X⁶)C(O)(X⁶), -SO₂N(X⁶)(X⁶), -N(X⁶)SO₂-phenyl, -N(X⁶)SO₂X⁶, -CONX¹¹X¹², -SO₂NX¹¹X¹², -NX⁶SO₂X¹², -NX⁶CONX¹¹X¹², -NX⁶SO₂NX¹¹X¹², -NX⁶C(O)X¹², imidazolyl, thiazolyl or tetrazolyl, provided that if A¹ is optionally substituted with methylenedioxy then it can only be substituted with one methylenedioxy;

where X¹¹ is hydrogen or optionally substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl; the optionally substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl defined for X¹¹ is optionally independently substituted with phenyl, phenoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, -S(O)_m(C₁-C₆)alkyl 1 to 5 halogens, 1 to 3 hydroxy, 1 to 3 (C₁-C₁₀)alkanoyloxy or 1 to 3 (C₁-C₆)alkoxy;

X¹² is hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, phenyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, furyl or thienyl, provided that when X¹² is not hydrogen, X¹² is optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of Cl, F, CH₃, OCH₃, OCF₃ and CF₃; or X¹¹ and X¹² are taken together to form -(CH₂)_r-L¹-(CH₂)_r;

where L^1 is $C(X^2)(X^2)$, O, $S(O)_m$ or $N(X^2)$;

r for each occurrence is independently 1, 2 or 3;

X^2 for each occurrence is independently hydrogen, optionally substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl, or optionally substituted (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl, where the optionally substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl and optionally substituted (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl in the definition of X^2 are optionally independently substituted with $-S(O)_m(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, $-C(O)OX^3$, 1 to 5 halogens or 1-3 OX^3 ;

X^3 for each occurrence is independently hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

X^6 is independently hydrogen, optionally substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_2-C_6) halogenated alkyl, optionally substituted (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7) -halogenatedcycloalkyl, where optionally substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl and optionally substituted (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl in the definition of X^6 is optionally independently substituted by 1 or 2 (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_4) alkoxy, carboxyl, $CONH_2$, $-S(O)_m(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, carboxylate (C_1-C_4) alkyl ester, or 1H-tetrazol-5-yl; or

when there are two X^6 groups on one atom and both X^6 are independently (C_1-C_6) alkyl, the two (C_1-C_6) alkyl groups may be optionally joined and, together with the atom to which the two X^6 groups are attached, form a 4- to 9- membered ring optionally having oxygen, sulfur or NX^7 ;

X^7 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl optionally substituted with hydroxyl;
and

m for each occurrence is independently 0, 1 or 2;

with the proviso that:

X^6 and X^{12} cannot be hydrogen when it is attached to $C(O)$ or SO_2 in the form $C(O)X^6$, $C(O)X^{12}$, SO_2X^6 or SO_2X^{12} ; and

when R^6 is a bond then L is $N(X^2)$ and each r in the definition $-(CH_2)_r-L-(CH_2)_r-$ is independently 2 or 3.

Claim 20 (original). A method of claim 19 wherein the growth hormone secretagogue is 2-amino-N-(2-(3a-(R)-benzyl-2-methyl-3-oxo-

2,3,3a,4,6,7-hexahydro-pyrazolo-[4,3-c]pyridin-5-yl)-1-(R)-benzyloxymethyl-2-oxo-ethyl)-isobutyramide, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said growth hormone secretagogue or said prodrug.

Claim 21 (original). A method of claim 20 wherein the growth hormone secretagogue is 2-amino-N-[2-(3a-(R)-benzyl-2-methyl-3-oxo-2,3,3a,4,6,7-hexahydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-5-yl)-1-(R)-benzyloxymethyl-2-oxo-ethyl]-isobutyramide, L-tartrate.

Claims 22-25 (canceled).

Claim 26 (original). A method of claim 1 which further comprises administering recombinant growth hormone or a growth hormone secretagogue selected from the group consisting of GHRP-6, GHRP-1, GHRP-2, hexarelin, growth hormone releasing factor, an analog of growth hormone releasing factor, IGF-I and IGF-II.

Claim 27 (original). A method of claim 1 which further comprises administering an antidepressant, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said antidepressant or said prodrug.

Claim 28 (original). A method of claim 27 wherein said antidepressant is a norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (NERI), selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAO), combined NERI/SSRI, or an atypical antidepressant, a prodrug of said antidepressant or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said antidepressant or said prodrug.

Claim 29 (original). A method of claim 28 wherein said antidepressant is a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said SSRI or said prodrug.

Claim 30 (original). A method of claim 29 wherein said SSRI is citalopram, femoxetine, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, indalpine, indeloxazine, milnacipran, paroxetine, sertraline, sibutramine or zimeldine, a prodrug of said SSRI or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said SSRI or said prodrug.

Claim 31 (original). A method of claim 30 wherein said SSRI is sertraline, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of sertraline or said prodrug.

Claim 32 (original). A method of claim 31 wherein said SSRI is sertraline hydrochloride.

Claim 33 (original). A method of claim 1 which further comprises administering an antipsychotic agent, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said antipsychotic agent or said prodrug.

Claim 34 (original). A method of claim 33 wherein the antipsychotic agent is chlorpromazine, haloperidol, clozapine, loxapine, molindone hydrochloride, thiothixene, olanzapine, ziprazidone hydrochloride, prochlorperazine, perphenazine, trifluoperazine hydrochloride or risperidone.

Claim 35 (original). A method of claim 1 which further comprises administering an antianxiety agent, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said antianxiety agent or said prodrug.

Claim 36 (original). A method of claim 35 wherein the antianxiety agent is alprazolam, clonazepam, lorazepam, oxazepam, chlordiazepoxide hydrochloride, diazepam, buspirone hydrochloride, doxepin hydrochloride, hydroxyzine pamoate or clonazepam.

Claim 37 (original). A method of claim 1 which further comprises administering a naturaceutic, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said naturaceutic or said prodrug.

Claim 38 (original). A method of claim 37 wherein the naturaceutic is ginko biloba, St. John's Wart, valerian or melatonin.